

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03435 222119Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W  
-----007071 222129Z /66

P R 222105Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0915  
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3435

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, BH, OT, PA, UK  
SUBJ: BELIZE: VICE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA VISITS PARAGUAY

1. PARAGUAY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GUATEMALA IN THE BELIZE  
ISSUE. THIS WAS RESTATED PRIVATELY TO US BY GOP OFFICIALS FOLLOWING  
A WEEK-LONG OFFICIAL VISIT TO PARAGUAY AUGUST 12-18, BY GUATEMALA'S  
VICE PRESIDENT, LIC. MARIO SANDOVAL ALARCON. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED  
BY HIS WIFE AND A PARTY OF FIVE. THE VISIT IS PART OF A SWING  
THROUGH SEVERAL COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AMERICA TO DRUM UP SUPPORT  
FOR GUATEMALA'S POSITION.

2. THE VISIT WAS LONG ON PROTOCOL AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE. SANDOVAL  
TOOK ADVANTAGE OF VARIOUS PUBLIC OCCASIONS TO TRY TO FOCUS PUBLICLY  
ON BELIZE. THE GOP, FOR ITS PART, TRIED TO BURY THE VISIT IN POMP.  
PUBLIC STATEMENTS EMPHASIZED IT EXPECTED THE BELIZE DISPUTE TO BE  
SETTLED BY PEACEFUL MEANS. SANDOVAL FINALLY CALLED A PRESS CON-  
FERENCE ON AUGUST 18 TO PUBLICIZE HIS POSITION AND THIS INCLUDED  
ATTACKS ON GREAT BRITAIN. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR COUNTERED  
WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE OF HIS OWN IN WHICH HE DREW ATTENTION  
TO THE JOINT UK-GUATEMALAN COMMUNIQUE OF JULY 28 AND CONTRASTED  
THIS WITH SANDOVAL'S MORE BELICOSE STATEMENTS.

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 03435 222119Z

3. COMMENT. THE GOP SUPPORTS THE GUATEMALANS OUT OF SHARED  
ANTI-COMMUNISM RATHER THAN BECAUSE OF ANY MERITS OF THE CASE.  
AT ONE CEREMONY PRESIDENT STROESSNER DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN  
THE OVERTHROW OF ARBENZ AND HIS OWN DEFENSE OF PARAGUAY AGAINST  
COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER. WE UNDERSTAND THE GOP WAS DISPLEASED BY  
SANDOVAL'S PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH INTRODUCED AN UNWANTED

POLEMICAL ISSUE TO THE VISIT.

LANDAU

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VICE PRESIDENT, DISPUTES, INDEPENDENCE, VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** BELIZE: VICE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA VISITS PARAGUAY  
**TAGS:** PGOV, OVIP, PDEV, BH, GT, PA, UK, (SANDOVAL ALARCON, MARIO)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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